



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
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May 23, 2016

William D. Aaron, Jr.
Aaron & Gianna, PLC
201 St. Charles Avenue, 38th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70170

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2016-287

Dear Mr. Aaron:

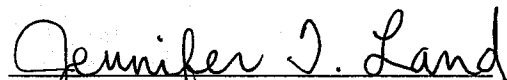
The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its May 20, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether Kurt Weigle may serve as a member of the board of directors for two non-profit corporations. You stated that Mr. Weigle is currently employed as the President and CEO of the Downtown Development District of New Orleans ("District"), a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana. You also stated that Mr. Weigle is a voluntary, uncompensated member of the board of directors of two 501(c)(3) organizations, the Birdfoot Chamber Music Festival ("Birdfoot") and the New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation ("NOPJ"). You inquired as to whether Mr. Weigle may serve as an uncompensated member of the board of directors of Birdfoot and NOPJ while he is an employee of the District. You also inquired as to whether the District would be prohibited from providing financial support to Birdfoot or NOPJ to enhance the efforts of either organization while Mr. Weigle is employed by the District.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Kurt Weigle from serving as an uncompensated member of the board of directors of Birdfoot and NOPJ while he is an employee of the District. Additionally, because NOPJ is a nonprofit public service organization, Kurt Weigle would not be prohibited from participating as the President and CEO of the District in transactions in which NOPJ has a substantial economic interest, provided that he is not compensated for his service as a member of the board of directors of NOPJ. However, Kurt Weigle would be prohibited from participating as the President and CEO of the District in transactions in which Birdfoot has a substantial economic interest. Finally, the Board concluded that the District would not be prohibited from providing financial support to Birdfoot and NOPJ. La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any person of which he is an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee has a substantial economic interest. However, La. R.S. 42:1123(1) allows a public servant to participate in the affairs of charitable, religious, nonprofit educational, public service, civic organizations, and bona fide organized public volunteer fire departments when no compensation is received.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer T. Land". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennifer T. Land
For the Board